

disaggregated data about teenage girls on a range of critical factors relating to their physical and mental health, access to medical care, educational experiences, perceptions of school and community, and support networks, among others.

The core intent of the Project has been to gather robust qualitative and quantitative data about the health and wellness of teenage girls to enhance youth programs and inform policy agendas while at the same time teaching girls themselves about the power of data and guiding them to become leaders and advocates for positive health outcomes in girls' lives.

The project is unprecedented in Alameda County and has surpassed all original expectations. Successful written surveys were conducted in 11 public and alternative high schools in Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro yielding responses from more than 1,900 girls in the 9th through the 12th grade, representing more than 21 % of the entire female high school population in the target school district. A dedicated group of 20 young women were trained to conduct almost 100 one-on-one interviews of their peers. They also helped analyze and interpret both the qualitative and quantitative data collected through the research efforts.

The resulting analysis presents a mixed portrait of girls in Northern Alameda County. A portrait, which on the one hand, demonstrates the resilience and enthusiasm of teen girls, while on the other hand, reveals continued areas of concern relating to girls' physical and mental health; their engagement in risk behaviors; their negative attitudes towards some academic areas, as well as their perceptions and experiences of safety and violence in their schools and communities.

I applaud Girls Inc. of Alameda County for initiating and completing the Girls Research Project. I am confident the research findings will provide valuable guidance for families, educators, health care professionals, policy-makers, and the myriad organizations focused on the health and well-being of teenage girls.

#### TRIBUTE TO GARY VIKAN

#### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Gary Vikan as he celebrates 10 years as Director of the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. The Walters Art Museum is one of the most important cultural institutions in Baltimore. It is loved and cherished by the thousands and thousands of people who visit it every year.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, William Thompson Walters and his son, Henry, collected nearly 22,000 works of art, building the foundation for what would later become the Walters Art Museum. The museum was first opened to the public in 1934. In 1974, a new, larger wing opened on the corner of Centre and Cathedral streets. In 1991, the museum opened another building, the Hackerman House, to hold much of its Asian art collection.

Since taking the helm of the Walters in 1994, Mr. Vikan has presided over a major renovation of the museum and expansion of its collection. As Director, he helped raise \$3 million to renovate the Centre Street building, and another \$8 million to reinstall the Renaissance and Baroque collections. During his tenure, the museum's endowment has grown from \$38 million to \$60 million, and its membership has increased by more than 60 percent.

He has been responsible for securing three major collections: the John and Berthe Ford Collection of Arts of India, Nepal and Tibet; the Austen-Stokes Foundation Collection of the Arts of the Ancient Americans (10 year loan); and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Collection of South-East Asian Art. Between 1995 and 2003, Mr. Vikan assembled the finest collection of Ethiopian art outside Ethiopia.

The Walters is internationally renowned for its vast collection that ranges from predynastic Egypt to 20th century Europe. The many treasures in the collection include Greek sculptures and Roman sarcophagi; medieval ivories and Old Master paintings; Art Deco jewelry and 19th century masterpieces.

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting Gary Vikan, Director of the Walters Art Museum, as we all celebrate and applaud 10 years of outstanding leadership and vision.

#### HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN AZERBAIJAN

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on January 23, 2004, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a dramatic report on the human rights situation in Azerbaijan, our ally in the war on terrorism. HRW contends that Azerbaijan is experiencing its gravest human rights crisis since it gained its independence from the Soviet Union. The report depicts rape, electric shock, severe beatings and forced confessions as routine weapons of the government against the supporters of the political opposition.

Mr. Speaker, according to the HRW report, "In the aftermath of the election, nearly 1,000 people were arrested, among them opposition leaders, local opposition party members, activists of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) who supported the opposition, journalists, and election officials and observers who challenged the fraud." To date, many opposition leaders and their supporters remain in detention with no legal representation. Reports of firings from jobs and police harassment are widespread throughout the country, and the government of Azerbaijan is making few attempts to hide its efforts to crush the opposition permanently.

Heidar Aliyev ruled Azerbaijan with an iron fist for years, even before the country achieved independence. Last summer it began to become apparent that, due to ill health, he would be unable to run for re-election. With this development, many in Azerbaijan had

high hopes that they would finally be able to participate in free and fair elections. The democratic forces were also buoyed by the fact that Azerbaijan became a member of the Council of Europe and that the intense scrutiny of the international community would usher in a new era of democracy and respect for human rights in the country. These hopes were crushed by the government's well-organized campaign to ensure the succession of President Aliyev's son, Ilham Aliyev, to the presidency despite the efforts of a sizeable international election monitoring team. After Aliyev's "landslide victory," the government unleashed a brutal campaign against the opposition without any high-level protest from the international community, including the United States.

Last October, I wrote a letter to the Under Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, Ambassador A. Elizabeth Jones, and later published an op-ed in the Christian Science Monitor, asking the Bush administration to hold Aliyev's feet to the fire on democracy issues. I believe that Azerbaijan, a secular majority-Muslim country, could have been an example of pro-American democracy in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Instead, the people of Azerbaijan are governed by the first post-Soviet dynastic transfer of power, setting a negative example throughout the region and adversely affecting U.S. national security. If the Bush administration takes a strong stance on the post-election crackdown in Azerbaijan, it will reinforce its commitment to spreading democracy and respect for human rights worldwide.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO MRS. ANNE B. RAWLINGS

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life of a remarkable woman from North Egremont, Massachusetts. Mrs. Anne Rawlings recently passed away at the age of eighty-one. She was a beloved figure and as her family and friends mourn her loss, I think it is appropriate that we take the time to recognize her many contributions here today.

Throughout her accomplished life, Anne was a patriot, mother, and wife. She joined the Army, where she served with the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, and helped to train fellow aviators in aerial gunnery. She was also a mother and was able to remain at home to help raise two children and take care of various family pets. Anne also enjoyed other activities such as reading, sewing, and picture puzzles and was an active member of St. James Episcopal Church in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to the life of Anne Rawlings. Anne was a true patriot, loving mother and wife who certainly had an impact on all who were fortunate to know her. I am honored to pay tribute for such a wonderful life and my heart goes out to her loved ones during this difficult time of bereavement.